

July 2003

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF MEXICO FOR SLAUGHTER CATTLE EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

The animals must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian so authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of the consignor and the consignee, and individual identification of the animals to be exported; cull animals must have a metallic eartag. Additional information shall include:

Los animales deben estar acompañados de un Certificado de salud expedido por un Médico Veterinario acreditado por el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos y endosado por un veterinario de Servicios Veterinarios (USDA). El certificado debe contener el nombre y la dirección del cosignador, del cosignatario y la identificación individual de los animales a ser exportados; los animales de desecho deben estar identificados con arete metálico. La información adicional debe incluir:

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS / CERTIFICACIONES

1. The United States is a country free of fever ticks (*Boophilus* spp.).
Los Estados Unidos es país libre de garrapata de Boophilus spp.
2. The animals are clinically healthy.
Los animales se encuentran clínicamente sanos.
3. The animals are free of ectoparasites or were treated for ectoparasites (show date and product used).
Los animales están libres de ectoparásitos o fueron tratados contra ectoparásitos (indique la fecha y producto usado).
4. The animals have not been fed ruminant origin meat and bone meal.
Los animales no fueron alimentados con harinas de carne y hueso de origen rumiante.
5. In the country of origin, there are animal health regulations that forbid the feeding of ruminant origin meat and bone meal to ruminant animals.
En el país de origen existe reglamentación zoosanitaria vigente que prohíbe alimentar a los rumiantes con harinas de carne y hueso de origen rumiante.
6. All test-eligible cattle (cull bulls and cows) exported for direct slaughter were tested for *Brucella abortus* within 60 days of export using any official test.
Todos los animales elegibles (toros y vacas de desecho) que se exportan para sacrificio inmediato fueron sometidos a pruebas para la Brucella abortus dentro de los 60 días a ser exportados usando una prueba oficial.
7. The animals are transported in cleaned and disinfected vehicles, and do not come into contact with any other animals not part of the shipment.
Los animales son transportados en vehículos limpios y desinfectados y no están en contacto

con otros animales que no son parte del envío.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS / PRUEBAS REQUERIDAS

Brucellosis:

- A. For cattle originating from Class A or lower States:
1. All test-eligible cattle (cull bulls and cows) exported for direct slaughter must be tested for Brucella abortus within 60 days of export using any official test.
 2. Note 1: The brucellosis test performed at auction markets is an acceptable test for export. The Federal veterinarian endorsing the export health certificate may rely either on a copy of the buyer's sheet, the auction form 4-54, or the health certificate issued by the market accredited veterinarian to validate the test conducted at the market. Therefore, confirmatory testing is NOT needed.
 3. Note 2: Veterinary Services Port Veterinarians may endorse such export health certificates for cattle destined for direct slaughter.
 4. Note 3: Test-eligible cattle purchased for export other than through a market with first point testing in place must be tested through an official laboratory, and the health documents must be endorsed at the Area Office.
 5. Note 4: As previously noted, fed heifers are not test-eligible, and therefore, are exempt from testing.
- B. Cattle originating from Class-free States are exempt from this testing.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. All animals will be unloaded and inspected by a Mexican veterinarian at a facility in the United States at one of the following border points: Brownsville, Texas; Mission, Texas; Rio Grande City, Texas; Laredo, Texas; Del Rio, Texas; Eagle Pass, Texas; Presidio, Texas; El Paso, Texas (for El Paso, by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays only); Santa Teresa, New Mexico; Douglas, Arizona; San Luis, Arizona; Nogales, Arizona; Douglas Arizona; and San Ysidro, California.
2. Identification of the animals: feeder cattle [steers and spayed heifers] for slaughter may continue to be identified with plastic colored bangle tags; however, cull bulls and cows, in addition to the bangle tags, must also be identified with either a Federal, State or Program *metal* ear tag.
3. The animals should be transported in cleaned and disinfected vehicles, and not come into contact with any other animals not part of the shipment.

4. Animals will be inspected by a SAGARPA veterinarian. After the inspection, trucks will be sealed by the Mexican veterinarian at one of the facilities indicated in Item 1 under "Other Information." This seal will be broken by the authorized Mexican official at the plant of destination. A verifier veterinarian designated by SAGARPA will accompany the animals from the border to the federally inspected plant, and the importer will pay for the cost of this veterinarian.
5. Veterinary Services personnel endorsing certificates for slaughter cattle can rely on exporters' certification as to destination of the animals. All slaughter cattle will be consigned to Mexican federally inspected (TIF) plants. The exporter will bear the responsibility for supplying correct information as to type of slaughter plant at destination. Incorrectly certified animals may be rejected by Mexican authorities at the border inspection.
6. The following TIF plants have "holding pens" for those exporters/importers and/or brokers interested in "holding" cattle back a few days to allow them to recover some of the water weight lost during transit:

<u>TIF Plant #</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Pens</u>
78	Chiapas	56 head	4
103	Puebla	5000 head	78
49	Zacatecas	300	3

All other TIF plants do not have pens to hold cattle for any period of time prior to slaughter.

7. The U.S. Origin Health Certificate must be typewritten. Mexican Port Veterinarians will reject any certificates that are handwritten.
8. Note for non-Arizona cattle destined for a Mexican-border land crossing point in the State of Arizona: Arizona requires such animals to be accompanied by a State-of-Arizona-issued entry permit. Without this permit, entry of the cattle into the State will not be allowed. For further information, call (602) 542-4293.